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Central Intelligence Agency



Executive Registry

85- 4706

Washington, D. C. 20505

27 November 1985

The Honorable Michael D. Barnes Chairman, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs Committee on Foreign Affairs U. S. House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Barnes:

I welcome the opportunity to brief the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs concerning developments in Central America as requested in your letter of 22 November 1985. However, before scheduling this briefing I would like to meet with you and Mr. Fascell to discuss an issue of concern to me. Following that discussion, we can then schedule the briefing.

This information is also being provided to Mr. Fascell.

Sincerely,

Director of Central (Intelligence



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Central Intelligence Agency



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Washington, D. C. 20505

27 November 1985

The Honorable Dante B. Fascell Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs U. S. House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I welcome the opportunity to brief the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs concerning developments in Central America as requested in Mr. Barnes' letter of 22 November 1985. However, before scheduling this briefing I would like to meet with you and Mr. Barnes to discuss an issue of concern to me. Following that discussion, we can then schedule the briefing.

This information is also being provided to Mr. Barnes.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey/ Director of Central Intelligence AMIL ON INC.

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## Congress of the United States

Committee on Foreign Affairs

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JOHN J. BRADY, JR.

November 22, 1985

The Honorable William J. Casey Director of Central Intelligence Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

I am writing to confirm my request that the Central Intelligence Agency provide a closed briefing for the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs on the current situation of the Nicaraguan armed opposition and the status of its military and political efforts. The principal purpose of this briefing is to assess progress toward the achievement of certain objectives of U.S. policy that are intended to be furthered by the provision of U.S. assistance to the opposition. Such assistance is currently provided, as you know, pursuant to legislation under the jurisdiction of the Committee of Foreign Affairs.

The Agency is specifically requested to provide the subcommittee with information on the following:

- (1) a review and assessment of the size and capabilities of the various opposition military forces, the military situation and the military outlook for the opposition, current prospects that the opposition could defeat the Sandinistas militarily, and the capabilities that would be required for the opposition to achieve that objective;
- (2) the current representation of former members of the Somoza government and national guard in the ranks of the opposition military and political leadership;
- (3) opposition violations of human rights or the laws of war inside or outside of Nicaragua, and any measures taken by the opposition leadership to punish or prevent such violations;
- (4) the current political program of the opposition groups;

The Honorable William J. Casey Page Two November 22, 1985

- (5) the impact to date of the opposition efforts, and U.S. assistance for them, on Sandinista willingness to pursue a dialogue with the opposition, to move toward a political opening and decreased repression, and to sign an agreement that would implement the 21 Contadora objectives;
- (6) the nature and depth of support for the opposition forces within Nicaragua;
- (7) current Honduran government and popular attitudes toward the opposition forces;
- (8) the effects to date of the U.S. trade embargo against Nicaragua;
- (9) the final disposition and use of U.S.-supplied "humanitarian assistance" to the opposition, including any misuse or diversion of such assistance; and
- (10) the nature, sources and extent of other (non-U.S. Government) assistance, including military assistance, available to the opposition.

If there are any questions, or if there is a need to coordinate security details, please have your staff coordinate details with Robert Kurz, Staff Consultant of the subcommittee, on 226-7812.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Barnes

Chairman

Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs

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